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**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PRINCIPAL BENCH**

**NEW DELHI**

MA No. 58 OF 2024

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 147/2022

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

KRISHNA DAS K V

....APPLICANT

VERSUS

STATE OF KERALA

....RESPONDENT

**Action taken report filed by the respondent (STATE OF KERALA)**

**DATE: 20/1/2026**

**FILED BY: NISHE RAJEN SHONKER FOR STATE OF KERALA**

Chamber No. 317, C.K.DAPHTARY,  
LAWYERS CHAMBER BLOCK  
SUPREME COURT OF INDIA-110001.  
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Action taken Report on the rejuvenation of Ashtamudi and Vembanad wetlands based on the interim order dtd 27.10.2025 in M.A. No. 58/2024 in Original Application No. 147 /2022 filed by Sri. Krishna Das KV against SoK & Ors.

Following were the findings of Hon'NGT in interim order dtd 27.10.2025:

Para 4. It is stated that four drains have been kept free from discharge of sewage and drains entering into four drains have been tapped. But, it has not been disclosed to which STPs sewage is diverted and conveyance system adopted.

Para 7. These four drains noted above are storm water drains and they have not been tapped or diverted but the sewage drains discharging untreated sewage in these storm water drains have been tapped and diverted. This fact is not stated in the affidavit therefore, it may be clarified in the next report.

It has been assured before the tribunal that the illegal drains discharging untreated sewage into the drains will be closed.

Following the direction issued by the Hon'Tribunal, the Chief Secretary had convened a stakeholder meeting and gave necessary direction to abate pollution in the major drains pointed out in the Order

As such actions have been initiated in Kollam and Kochi Corporations. Thereafter KSPCB has conducted water sample analysis

Sample analysis report from some lake stations and certain drains showed significant contamination. Therefore Principal Director, LSGD was specifically directed to strengthen the enforcement activities in and around the Lakes. Consequent to this, the Principal Director issued directions to the Joint Directors of concerned districts to form Special Inspection Teams to identify and close all illegal outlets, cleaning of canals and to strengthen

  
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enforcement activities. Notices were already issued and steps are initiated for prosecution for violation of rules. Unidentified sewage drains discharging sewage into the storm water drains are identified through this special drive and action is being taken to tap them.

Following details emerged from the reports submitted by the concerned Urban Local Bodies.

### **Kochi Corporation**

As reported by the Secretary, Kochi Corporation, joint inspections were conducted in canal stretches identified as contaminated by the Kerala State Pollution Control Board, namely **Edapally Thodu, Mullassery Canal and Thevara–Perandoor Canal**. The inspections were carried out with the participation of officials from the Health and Engineering Wings of the Corporation, LSGD, Pollution Control Board, Suchitwa Mission and Special Inspection Teams and Enforcement squads. Joint inspections were conducted in major canal stretches including Edapally Thodu, Mullassery Canal and Thevara–Perandoor Canal. The Corporation has reported large-scale enforcement action . The actions were supported by **750 illegal outlets were closed** from 2023 onwards by the engineering, health and enforcement wings, along with canal cleaning activities

During the inspections, illegal outlets discharging untreated sewage and wastewater into the canals were identified. Immediate enforcement action was taken for **physical closure of the illegal outlets** using appropriate technical measures. Simultaneously, canal cleaning and removal of accumulated waste were carried out. Notices and legal measures were initiated against violators to prevent recurrence of such violations.

**Kochi Corporation**, in connection with OA No.147/2022 of the Hon'ble

National Green Tribunal, a joint squad comprising Health and Engineering wing officials has been functioning to prevent discharge of sewage into Thevara–Perandoor Canal, Edappally Thodu and Mullassery Canal. As part of the enforcement drive, illegal drains from various establishments and residential houses were closed. Further, based on the decisions taken in the review meeting chaired by the Principal Director, an urgent squad operation was conducted on 16.01.2026, during which sewage pipes from **19 houses in Padiyath Kulam Colony discharging into Mullassery Canal were removed**. Subsequent inspections confirmed closure of all outlet pipes in locations earlier issued with notices along Edappally Thodu. Additionally, inspections conducted at various circle levels identified **94 newly detected drainage outlets** discharging into Thevara–Perandoor Canal, for which notices were issued. Out of these, **about 47 violators have complied** with the directions, which has been verified through inspection, while action is being continued against the remaining violators, including closure of unauthorized pipes. Squad-level enforcement activities are being further strengthened

### Vaikom Municipality

As per the report submitted by the Secretary, Vaikom Municipality, inspections were conducted in the drain near **Mahadeva Temple** and other identified locations, which were found discharging untreated wastewater into the canal system connected to Vembanad and Ashtamudi Lakes. Joint inspections were undertaken with the involvement of LSGD officials, Pollution Control Board representatives and Suchitwa Mission. Illegal outlets were identified during the inspection and **necessary steps were taken for their closure**. Cleaning of the affected drain and canal stretch was also carried out. Enforcement and preventive actions were initiated by the Municipality to ensure that no further untreated sewage is discharged into the

water body.

In connection with pollution of Vembanad and Ashtamudi Lakes, a special inspection and enforcement team was constituted under the leadership of the Clean City Manager and Municipal Engineer, as per the directions of the Hon'ble NGT and Government Orders. Inspections were conducted in areas including Andhakarathodu, KV Canal and the drain originating from Vaikom Temple. As on 16.01.2026, **27 illegal outlets were identified and closed**. For canal cleaning and waste removal, **six sanitation workers have been temporarily engaged**, and cleaning operations are being continued in Andhakarathodu. Further, a project amounting to **₹15,00,000/-** has been proposed to facilitate smooth water flow, and under the AMRUT scheme, a decision has been taken to engage **six personnel for maintenance of water bodies**.

**Kollam Corporation:**

Inspections were conducted and **2 illegal outlets were closed** during the enforcement drive undertaken from 01.01.2026 onwards. In Kollam, special inspection and enforcement teams, conduct joint inspections, identification of illegal outlets and initiation of closure and legal action wherever violations were noticed. The Joint Director has reported continuous monitoring and coordination with Pollution Control Board, Suchitwa Mission and enforcement agencies to ensure effective compliance.

In **Kottayam Municipality**, inspection and enforcement action was carried out on 16.01.2026 in accordance with NGT OA No.147/2022. During the said inspection, **12 illegal outlets were identified and closed**, and a total fine of **₹30,000/-** was imposed on the violators. The enforcement activities were carried out by forming squads under the leadership of SPHIs of all zonal offices. Further, the Health Standing Committee of the Municipality

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has decided to strengthen monitoring in the identified areas in the subsequent days to prevent recurrence of violations.

The long-term plan for addressing the management of liquid waste includes the establishment of STPs, sewerage networks, and FSTPs with sufficient capacity.

Some of the proposed actions and plan of implementation are as follows:

Sl. No.	Project	Physical Progress as per the previous report	Current Physical Progress	Current Status
1	12 MLD STP at Kureepuzha, Kollam Corporation	93%	93%	Building works in progress.
2	Co-treatment Works of the 5 MLD STP at Elamkulam, Kochi Corporation	17%	75%	Work Ongoing.

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Sl. No.	Project	Physical Progress as per the previous report	Current Physical Progress	Current Status
3	1.1 MLD STP at Ambedkar Colony,	62%	71%.	Work in progress.
4	5 MLD STP at Elamkulam (2nd STP) & Associated Network, Kochi	Proposed		Decided to Retender Sewer Network : The TS was issued by the KWA on 29.09.2025 for the 27.74 km package and a tender was invited. TS to be issued by KWA for the 12.5 km package.

	Corporation			
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Sl. No.	Project	Physical Progress as per the previous report	Current Physical Progress	Current Status
5	105 KLD STP for RAY Flat, Fort Kochi, Kochi Corporation	7%	55%	Work in progress
6	1 MLD FSTP at Brahmapuram, Kochi Corporation	Proposed		The agreement was executed on 29.10.2025 and the site is to be handed over to the contractor.

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7	Mobile FSTP (10 KLDx2 nos.), Alappuzha Municipality			Both units were delivered.

Sl. No.	Project	Physical Progress as per the previous report	Current Physical Progress	Current Status
8	5 MLD STP at Aliseery & Associated	Proposed		Tendered

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	Network, Alappuzha Municipali ty			
9	250 KLD FSTP at Cherthala Municipali ty	100%		Operational in limited phase

**Some large STP projects under Integrated Urban Regeneration and Water Transport System (IURWTS) with KIIFB funding are also in the pipeline**

**Additional Projects**

Additional projects envisaged for the rejuvenation of Ashtamudi - Vembanad Kol wetland region includes construction of STPs,, Faecal Sludge Treatment plants, Mobile Treatment units, Biodigestors etc. The details of such projects is included below

Sl. No	Project Name	District	Capacity	Status
1	STP at Manichithode	Kollam	0.5 MLD	Work awarded.
2	Biodigestor - Thekumbhagam	Kollam	36 Nos	Installation Completed
3	Biodigestor - Panayam	Kollam	21 Nos	Installation Completed
4	Biodigestor - Pereyam	Kollam	205 Nos	Installation Completed

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5	Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant at Erumeli	Kottayam	105 KLD	Tendered and work awarded to the contractor.
6	Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant at Karunagappalli	Kollam	25 KLD	Tendered and work awarded to the contractor.
7	Mobile Treatment Unit - Kumarakom	Kottayam	1	Operational
8	Mobile Treatment unit - Alappuzha Municipality	Alappuzha	2	Operational
9	Mobile Treatment unit - Kayamkulam Municipality	Alappuzha	1	Operational
11	Mobile Treatment unit - Chenganoor	Alappuzha	1	Proposed
12	Mobile Treatment unit - Maradu Municipality	Ernakulam	1	Tendered
13	Mobile Treatment unit - District Panchayath, Kollam	Kollam	3	Purchased 2 units, Proposed 1 Unit

14	Mobile Treatment unit - Kollam corporation	Kollam	1	Tendered
15	Mobile Treatment unit - Changanaserri Municipality	Kottayam	1	Operational
16	STP at Payyalakkavu Tsunami Flat - Chavara GP	Kollam	45 KLD	DPR Prepared and submitted for verification
17	STP at Bharanikkavu Tsunami Flat - Chavara GP	Kollam	15 KLD	DPR Prepared and submitted for verification

### Other Initiatives

Local bodies have initiated several campaigns such as Nirmalatheeram Ashtamudi Lake Conservation, "Ini njan ozhukatte" - Vembanad Lake Rejuvenation, etc.

Combined action of HKS teams, functioning MCFs, and high collection coverage has contributed to:

- Significant reduction in littering and illegal dumping along lake edges
- Improved household-level segregation and recycling
- Reduced inflow of plastics and non-biodegradables into feeder canals

and lake channels

- Cleaner lakefront public spaces, markets, and ferry points
- Enhanced sanitation and lower pollution load entering the lake

Additionally, health inspectors and enforcement squads monitor hotspots, act against offenders, and clear unauthorised dumps thereby ensuring sustained cleanliness.

The above actions, together with the inspection and enforcement data furnished through the centralized reporting mechanism, clearly demonstrate that coordinated and sustained enforcement measures have been taken with primary emphasis on identification and closure of illegal outlets, strengthening of monitoring mechanisms and prevention of discharge of untreated sewage into Vembanad and Ashtamudi Lakes and its connected water bodies. Continuous monitoring is being carried out to ensure sustainability of the actions taken and strict compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.